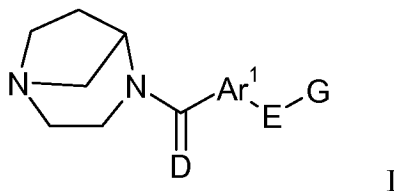


Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.(Currently amended) A compound according to Formula I:



wherein:

D is selected from oxygen, sulfur or $N(R^1)_2$;

~~Ar¹ is selected from a 5- or 6-membered aromatic or heteroaromatic ring having 0, 1 or 2 nitrogen atoms, 0 or 1 oxygen atoms, and 0 or 1 sulfur atoms, or selected from an 8-, 9- or 10-membered fused aromatic or heteroaromatic ring system having 0, 1, 2 or 3 nitrogen atoms, 0 or 1 oxygen atoms, and 0 or 1 sulfur atoms~~furanyl or thiophenyl;

E is a single bond, -O, -S, or -NR²;

G is selected from hydrogen, C₁-C₄alkoxy or Ar², where Ar² is a 5- or 6-membered aromatic or heteroaromatic ring having 0, 1 or 2 nitrogen atoms, 0 or 1 oxygen atoms, and 0 or 1 sulfur atoms;

where each Ar¹ or Ar² moiety independently is unsubstituted or has 1, 2 or 3 substituents selected from -R³, -C₁-C₆alkyl, -C₂-C₆alkenyl, -C₂-C₆alkynyl, halogen, -CN, -NO₂, -CF₃, -S(O)_nR³, -NR²R³, -CH₂NR²R³, -OR³, -CH₂OR³ or -CO₂R⁴;

R¹, R² and R³ are independently selected at each occurrence from hydrogen, -C₁-C₄alkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, -C(O)R⁴, -C(O)NHR⁴, -CO₂R⁴ or -SO₂R⁴, or

R² and R³ in combination is -(CH₂)_jG(CH₂)_k- wherein G is oxygen, sulfur, NR⁴, or a bond;

j is 2, 3 or 4;

k is 0, 1 or 2;

n is 0, 1 or 2, and

R⁴ is independently selected at each occurrence from hydrogen, -C₁-C₄alkyl, aryl, or heteroaryl,

and stereoisomers, enantiomers, ~~in vivo hydrolysable precursors~~ or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof.

2.(Currently amended) A compound according to Claim 1, wherein:

D is oxygen;

~~Ar¹ is selected from phenyl or a 5-membered heteroaromatic ring having 0 or 1 nitrogen atoms, 0 or 1 oxygen atoms, and 0 or 1 sulfur atoms, or selected from a 9-membered fused aromatic or heteroaromatic ring system having 0, 1, 2 or 3 nitrogen atoms, 0 or 1 oxygen atoms, and 0 or 1 sulfur atoms;;~~

~~wherein:~~

E is a single bond;

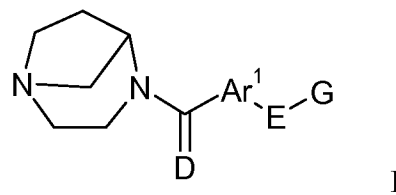
G is selected from hydrogen, methoxy or Ar², where Ar² is selected from a 6-membered aromatic or heteroaromatic ring having 0 or 1 nitrogen atoms, 0 or 1 oxygen atoms, and 0 or 1 sulfur atoms;

where each Ar¹ or Ar² moiety independently is unsubstituted or has 1, 2 or 3 substituents selected from halogen, -CN, -NO₂, -CF₃, -CH₃ or -C₂H₅;

and stereoisomers, enantiomers, ~~in vivo hydrolysable precursors~~ or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof.

3.(Currently amended) ~~A compound according to Claim 1, wherein:~~

A compound according to Formula I:



wherein:

D is oxygen;
Ar¹ is selected from phenyl, furanyl, thiophenyl or 1-methyl-1H-pyrrolyl;
E is a single bond;
G is selected from hydrogen, methoxy, phenyl or pyridyl, and
Ar¹ bears 1 halogen substituent;
and stereoisomers, enantiomers, ~~in vivo hydrolysable precursors~~ or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof.

4.(Original) A compound according to Claim 1, wherein:

E represents a single bond; or an enantiomer thereof, or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof.

5.(cancelled)

6.(Currently amended) A compound according to Claim 1, selected from:

(1,4-diazabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-4-yl)-(5-pyridin-3-yl-thiophen-2-yl)-methanone;
(1,4-diazabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-4-yl)-(5-phenyl-thiophen-2-yl)-methanone;
[5-(4-chloro-phenyl)-furan-2-yl]-(1,4-diazabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-4-yl)-methanone;
(1,4-diazabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-4-yl)-(5-phenyl-furan-2-yl)-methanone;
~~benzofuran-2-yl-(1,4-diazabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-4-yl)-methanone;~~
~~(1,4-diazabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-4-yl)-(1-methyl-1H-indol-2-yl)-methanone;~~
~~biphenyl-3-yl-(1,4-diazabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-4-yl)-methanone;~~
~~(1,4-diazabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-4-yl)-(4-methoxy-phenyl)-methanone;~~
~~(1,4-diazabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-4-yl)-(1H-indol-5-yl)-methanone; or~~
~~(1,4-diazabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-4-yl)-naphthalen-2-yl-methanone;~~

or stereoisomers, enantiomers, ~~in vivo hydrolysable precursors~~ or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof.

7.(withdrawn) A method of treatment or prophylaxis of a disease or condition in which activation of the $\alpha 7$ nicotinic receptor is beneficial which method comprises administering a therapeutically-effective amount of a compound according to Claim 1 to a subject suffering from said disease or condition.

8.(withdrawn) The method of Claim 7, wherein said disease or condition is anxiety, schizophrenia, mania or manic depression.

9.(withdrawn) A method of treatment or prophylaxis of neurological disorders, psychotic disorders or intellectual impairment disorders, which comprises administering a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to Claim 1.

10.(withdrawn) The method of Claim 9, wherein said disorder is Alzheimer's disease, learning deficit, cognition deficit, attention deficit, memory loss, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, Parkinson's disease, Huntington's disease, Tourette's syndrome, neurodegenerative disorders in which there is loss of cholinergic synapses, jetlag, nicotine addiction, craving, pain, or ulcerative colitis.

11.(withdrawn) A method for inducing the cessation of smoking comprising administering an effective amount of a compound according to Claim 1.

12.(Original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to Claim 1 and a pharmaceutically-acceptable diluent, lubricant or carrier.

13. (withdrawn) A method of treatment or prophylaxis of a disease or condition in which activation of the $\alpha 7$ nicotinic receptor is beneficial which method comprises administering a therapeutically-effective amount of a pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 12 to a subject suffering from said disease or condition.

14. (withdrawn) The method of Claim 13, wherein said disease or condition is anxiety, schizophrenia, mania or manic depression.

15. (withdrawn) A method of treatment or prophylaxis of neurological disorders, psychotic disorders or intellectual impairment disorders, which comprises administering a therapeutically effective amount of a pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 12.

16. (withdrawn) The method of Claim 10, wherein said disorder is Alzheimer's disease, learning deficit, cognition deficit, attention deficit, memory loss, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, Parkinson's disease, Huntington's disease, Tourette's syndrome, neurodegenerative disorders in which there is loss of cholinergic synapses, jetlag, nicotine addiction, craving, pain, or ulcerative colitis.

17. (withdrawn) A method for inducing the cessation of smoking comprising administering an effective amount of a pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 12.

18-19. (Cancelled)